

Archipelago (Adams and Reeve). Percy Island, North-east Coast of Australia (Mr. F. Strange). Cape Grenville, north-east Australia, 25 fathoms, sandy mud bottom, one valve found (Brazier). Darnley Island, Torres Straits, 20-30 fathoms, sandy bottom, one valve found (Brazier). Bulari Passage, New Caledonia, fine living specimen found in the stomach of a Schnapper, *Pagrus unicolor*—by Monsieur Fabre, the pilot stationed there.

This interesting *Cardium* is, without exception, the most striking and distinct from any hitherto known that can well be imagined. In colour it is of a fine rose tint, with the following singular and peculiar soft velvety appearance, the effect of its being minutely decussated with concentric and radiating striæ, and covered with an exquisitely thin, shining, horny epidermis, disposed in fine concentric cords, abruptly terminating at the posterior area. The posterior portion, accordingly destitute of epidermis, is very thickly rayed with ribs of short compressed spines, as if the delicately-clad surface of the shell had been thus far ploughed up as it were into furrows; a little of the epidermis is removed by the action of being in the stomach of the Schnapper. The specimen I show to-night was sent to me for my inspection and nomenclature by my kinsman, Mr. R. C. Rossiter, who has the finest collection of New Caledonian shells.

There were two fine living specimens in the Australian Museum some years ago, dredged by the late Mr. F. Strange, at Percy Island; one specimen was purloined by a gentleman who at one time held an appointment in that institution.

Description of a New Species of *Halmaturus*, from New Ireland—
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HALMATURUS BROWNII. NEW SPECIES.

THE whole of the upper surface, the chin and a stripe on either side from the angle of the mouth to the cheek, the outer portion

of the legs and arms, upper part of the tail at the base, of a rich, deep, dark, glossy brown. A whitish line extends from the snout along the margin of the upper lip, and widening out on the cheek, reaches to underneath the eye. The throat and whole of the under surface whitish, slightly tinged on the sides, and round the flanks and vent with yellowish, hair on the inside and margin of pouch, rufous yellow. The fur is fine, long, and silky, more so in the young animals than in the adult; that at the base of the ears long, on the occiput just behind the ears is a curled patch of hair radiating and exposing the skin in the centre. The hairs directed forward to between the ears meet those on the head directed backwards, and form just in front of the ears, two ridges meeting at an angle on the base of the forehead, and there forming a small pointed tuft; the hair at the base and on the margin of the ears in front and on the inside is of a light yellowish tint, or whitish. Ears long, somewhat pointed; fore limbs slender; hind limbs stouter, with the toes and nails strong, the latter triangular, conical and blunt. Tail cylindrical or but slightly tapering, basal third clothed with hair, dark brown above, whitish below, the remaining two-thirds sparingly clothed with hairs; the scales numerous and conspicuous, muffle naked; eyelash black; *under surface* of tail clothed with stiff hairs, the *sides* almost naked, scaly.

Total length from tip of nose to tip of tail, 3 feet.

Head, 4 inches.

Tail, 14 inches.

Forefoot, 1.3; longest toe, 0.8; its nail, 0.45.

Hind foot, 4.3; longest toe, 1.5; its nail, 0.9.

Outer toe, 0.9; its nail, 0.7.

Inner conjoined toes, 0.65; nails, 0.35.

From tip of snout to centre of orbit, 2.1.

From tip of snout to ear, 3.4.

Total length of skull, 3.75, greatest width about centre of zygomatic arch, 1.9.

Height at base, 1 inch; width, 1.3.

Distance of space between third incisor and first premolar, 0.6.

Dental series (*the last molar just cutting*) 1.3.

Width of palate across point of posterior palatal openings, 3.75 ; anterior openings large, oblong, 0.3 x 0.1 ; distance between the anterior and posterior openings, 1.05.

It will be seen from the following dental formula that the premolars have not yet been shed, and on examination I find the permanent premolar pushing through to be nearly 0.3 inch ; distance between insertion of upper incisor and that of permanent premolar, 0.75.

3—3.	2—2.	4—4.
Incisors—	Premol.—	Mol.—
1—1	2—2	4—4

The distance between the insertion of the lower incisor and that of the first premolar in the lower jaw is 0.4, to the end of permanent premolar still embedded in the jaw, 0.7 ; premolar, 0.25.

Present range of teeth in lower jaw, 1.3 with permanent premolars about 1.15 inch.

This very distinct and beautiful species, which I have named after its discoverer, was obtained in New Ireland by the Rev. George Brown, of the Wesleyan Mission Society, a gentleman to whom science is greatly indebted for many valuable discoveries in the natural history of those islands lying eastward of New Guinea.

The specimen here described was purchased, with other mammals, of Mr. James Cockerell, who accompanied the Rev. Mr. Brown as taxidermist, and to whose energy a large portion of the grand collection made during the voyage is due.

The largest specimen (a male) obtained by Mr. Brown, who has kindly permitted me to examine his collection, measured as follows :—

Length from nose to root of tail, 2.17 ; tail, 16 inches ; hind leg and foot, 18 inches ; foot, 5 inches ; nail, 1 inch ; fore arm, 4 inches ; hand, 1.1 inches ; nail of longest toe, 0.6 inch.

Head, 4½ inch ; to ear from snout, 4 inches ; from snout to centre of orbit, 2.6 inches.

